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Correspondence, John C. Stennis, October 8-13, 1958

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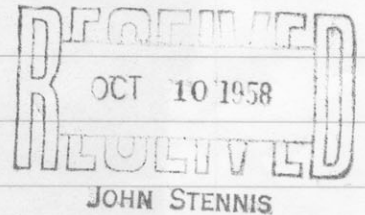
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[REDACTED]
Water Valley, Mississippi
October 8, 1958

WASHINGTON OFFICE

Senator John Stennis
Washington, D. C.



Dear Senator,

This is just a short letter to ask a favor of you. I am writing an essay for a contest on Segregation.

Would you please send me any information which might help me?

I am 17 years old, and a senior at Taylor High School. My English instructor is Mrs. N. S. Jones.

I would appreciate any help that you may be able to offer me.

The title of the essay is "Why Separate Schools Should be Maintained for the White and Negro Races".

Thinking of you with best wishes
I am, your

Sincerely yours
[REDACTED]

P.S. Excuse this paper and pencil.

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Segregation
United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

October 13, 1958

[REDACTED]
Water Valley, Mississippi

Dear [REDACTED]

Your good letter of October 8 has reached me, and I am enclosing a copy of the hearings of the House of Representatives District Committee showing the effects of the sudden desegregation of public schools in the District of Columbia. While this may be a little more detailed than what you had in mind, I think it is the most authoritative investigation of conditions which prevail after sudden desegregation, and that the facts disclosed by this inquiry make the best argument for maintaining separate schools.

Of course, in Mississippi you know that the laws establishing segregated public schools were enacted by the Legislature during Reconstruction Days when it was dominated by the colored people and the carpetbaggers. Regardless of this, it had the good effect of establishing free separate schools, a system which has worked for some 80 years in educating the youth of Mississippi, both white and colored, in an atmosphere entirely free of turmoil, confusion, resentment and violence. That this system should suddenly be wrecked, and that the grave problems which confront the communities in Washington, Clinton, Tennessee, Little Rock, and elsewhere, must be avoided at all costs. We need more education of all American children, and we certainly do not want to be forced to close our schools and deprive our children of both races of the education they have every right to expect.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

John Stennis
United States Senator

Enclosure
JS/add